

California MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

The A.M.A. President-Elect



E. VINCENT ASKEY, M.D.

DR. E. VINCENT ASKEY of Los Angeles, formerly president of the Los Angeles County Medical Association and the California Medical Association, has been made President-elect of the American Medical Association.

This son of Pennsylvania (1895), a graduate of Allegheny College and the Medical School of the University of Pennsylvania in 1921, served his internship and residency in Philadelphia at the Episcopal Hospital and the Kensington Hospital for Women. Turning naturally to his chosen field of surgery he has been since that time for 35 years in the private practice of surgery in Los Angeles. His professional competence is indicated by his certification by the American Board of Surgery, Fellowship in the American College of Surgeons

and his membership on the surgical staff of St. Vincent's Hospital.

Recognition of his leadership in professional activities repeatedly has been given him by his colleagues and by his old alma mater, Allegheny College, which last year granted him the honorary degree of Doctor of Science.

Early in his career in the practice of surgery Vincent Askey took an active part in the Los Angeles County Medical Association and subsequently in the California Medical Association. Besides serving both organizations as president, he early showed those unusual abilities which led him to be elected vice-speaker and then speaker of the House of Delegates and a member of the Council and Executive Committee of the California Medical Association. His skill in parliamentary procedure and his possession of the qualities of leadership caused his associates to elect him to the House of Delegates of the American Medical Association in 1944 and for 15 years he has ably served in this capacity. It is not surprising that the members of the House of Delegates of the A.M.A. recognized in him also the same qualities and abilities and elected him vice-speaker in 1952 and speaker in 1955.

Vince's qualities of leadership and his skill in medical organization have thus led him to continued participation in county, state and national medical organizations as an elected official for over 25 years.

What are the qualities which have led Vincent Askey to his present position of leadership in medicine in this country? Invariably patient and a gentleman, he has always been able to persuade other men by simply predicting what can be expected as a result of certain actions, and never by telling them

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what to do. His sponsorship of a project not only insures its success but also marks it as a project in the public interest. This qualifies him as a medical statesman. He has shown constant support and enthusiasm for young physicians and perhaps most of all faith in America and his fellow physicians and pride in his chosen profession of medicine. As speaker of the House of Delegates of the A.M.A. he has proved himself honest, sincere, fair, friendly, dignified and the possessor of unusually good judgment. At the proper moments he has not been one to sit back passively but has proven himself to be a fighter for his and medicine's rights. A diplomat as well as an expert in parliamentary procedure, he has been in the judgment of many members of the

House the best speaker of the House of Delegates of the A.M.A. in modern times.

As a person Vince has shown himself to be a good husband, a good father and friend and to possess all those qualities that mark the true physician. American medicine can look to and be proud of the leadership he will provide with his personal qualities, his experience of importance in medical societies and his understanding of the private practice of medicine.

Dr. Askey will be installed as president of the A.M.A. at the annual meeting in June, 1960 in Miami succeeding Dr. Louis M. Orr of Orlando, Florida. He will be the American Medical Association's 114th president since 1847.

Actions of the A.M.A. House of Delegates

This skimming and skipping report on the proceedings of the House of Delegates of the American Medical Association at the Atlantic City meeting covers only a few of the many important subjects dealt with by the House and is not intended as a detailed report on all actions taken.

THE REPORT of the A.M.A. Commission on Medical Care Plans, relations between medicine and osteopathy, the report of the Committee on Preparation for General Practice and the issue of compulsory Social Security coverage for self-employed physicians were among the major subjects which brought important policy actions by the House of Delegates at the American Medical Association's 108th annual meeting held June 8 to 12 in Atlantic City.

Another highlight of the meeting was the appearance of President Dwight D. Eisenhower, who addressed an overflow audience of more than 5,000 at the Tuesday night inauguration of Dr. Louis M. Orr of Orlando, Florida, as the 113th president of the A.M.A. It marked the first time that a President of the United States has addressed an A.M.A. annual or clinical meeting.

Dr. E. Vincent Askey of Los Angeles, speaker of the House of Delegates since 1955, was named president-elect for the coming year. Dr. Askey will succeed Dr. Orr as president at the association's annual meeting in June, 1960, in Miami Beach.

The 1959 Distinguished Service Award of the American Medical Association was voted to Dr. Michael E. DeBakey of Houston, chairman of the department of surgery at Baylor University College of Medicine, for his outstanding contributions in the field of cardiovascular surgery. Dr. DeBakey received the award at the Tuesday night inaugural ceremony.

Total registration through Thursday, with half a day of the meeting still remaining, had reached 28,225, including 12,921 physicians.

Eisenhower Address

President Eisenhower, speaking at the inaugural ceremony in the ballroom of Convention Hall, warned that inflation posed the greatest danger to the traditional, free enterprise practice of medicine. The cost of inflation, he said, "is not paid in dollars alone but in increasingly stagnated progress, lost opportunities, and eventually, if unchecked, in lost freedoms for the doctor and the patient." Mr. Eisenhower also expressed gratification at learning of A.M.A. leadership in the program to meet the health care needs of the aged.

Commission on Medical Care Plans

The House of Delegates received Part I of the report of the Commission on Medical Care Plans as information only and then acted upon the commission recommendations item by item. The House adopted 36 of the recommendations without change, but reworded three which relate to miscellaneous and unclassified plans. The changed recommendations now read as follows:

B-4. "In an effort to decrease, or at least to prevent an increase in, the over-all cost of health care, study should be given to the removal of the requirement of hospital admission as the only condition under which payment of certain benefits will be made."

B-6. "Medical care plans should be encouraged to increase their efforts to provide health education and information concerning the coverage of their subscribers."

B-16. "The American Medical Association be-